



March 2022 Charge Happenings

Worship Times:

Livingston – 8 a.m.
415 Woodward Ave
Livingston, WI
53554

Cobb – 9:30 a.m.
107 E Main St
Cobb, WI 53526

Montfort – 11:00 a.m.
300 E Main St
Montfort, WI 53569

Website:
www.lmcumc.org



Invite your friends to like us on Facebook at: **“Livingston, Montfort & Cobb United Methodist Churches”** and our children’s ministry page at: **“Kingdom Kids Ministry”**

My Dear Friends of Livingston, Montfort and Cobb,

Right now as we enjoy what seems to be an early spring, we are participating in a centuries old tradition called Lent. My beloved and trusted colleague, Rev. Dr. Julius E. DelPino describes Lent as a sacred observance in the Christian liturgical year that prepares us to meet the risen Lord on Easter Sunday morning... a journey meant to transform and heal our brokenness. Our tradition on Ash Wednesday is to smudge a black cross on the center of the forehead. The ashes symbolize our remorse and pain for the words and deeds we have done to separate ourselves from God’s will for our lives.

As we continue through the weeks of Lent toward Easter, toward the risen Christ, we prepare ourselves. Friday, April 15, 2022 is the day people all over the world remember the death of Jesus and the horrendous pain He experienced on our behalf. Good Friday services are held in most communities. **We will be observing Good Friday at 7pm at Cobb UMC.**

Dr. DelPino reminds us that Easter Sunday is the culmination of Jesus defeating death and gives us hope to embrace and believe in life eternal. While people still die, Jesus, through his life and ministry made it possible to have a relationship with God now while on earth, and also to spend eternity in heaven with our Creator. What a gift we are given! What a joy can be found!

This Lenten season am offering a six-week Lenten study that I hope you will consider being a part of, to deepen your walk with Christ. I sincerely hope that every effort will be made by our congregations of LMC to invite merchants and friends to our services and special events. Everyone needs to hear the extraordinary news that Jesus Christ is Lord and that there is a place among us to grow in that faith!

Ways to make this season of Lent truly meaningful and to help our church continue to change and grow for the better as we love our neighbors.

1. Pray to be more merciful.
2. Attend worship regularly and invite a friend or neighbor to come with you.
3. Practice fasting by giving something up (related to the sacrifices of Jesus).
4. Give generously more resources to your church for its ministries as we grow more in the likeness of Christ and in commitment to growing a healthier stewardship foundation.
5. Serve and greet people at the front door Sunday mornings.
6. Visit or call a person who is homebound, or send a card of love and concern.
7. Take time to tell someone about your church’s Lenten services and the children and youth ministries.
8. Call someone from our church you haven’t seen for a while and let them know you’re thinking of them. Find out how they’re doing.
9. Make it a point to talk to people throughout the week about the sermon. Let it settle on your heart. See if there’s something more God is saying.
10. Read scripture each day. If you’re not sure where to start, pick up an Upper Room devotional.

Wednesday Night Sunday School during Lent

On Wednesdays during Lent we are going to meet at the Montfort church! The time remains the same: 6:00 – 6:45 pm. And we will follow lessons from the same book study! Come journey through Lent with us!



Livingston

Adult Sunday School Class

Meets following 8 am worship each Sunday.

We are encouraging and welcoming new members to join us! Starting March 6th we will started a new study called: God Frees and Redeems.

Coffee (and sometimes treats) served.

COME AND JOIN US FOR STUDY, FELLOWSHIP AND COFFEE!



MAKING A FRESH S.T.A.R.T.

Rev. Kristen Lowe

1.16.22

On January 13th I preached a sermon called “Making a fresh start” which offered practical ways to leave behind old ways to start new. I was asked by several of you for a copy of it. I have condensed it down and have included it here.

Isaiah 43:18-19

“But forget all that— it is nothing compared to what I am going to do. For I am about to do something new. See, I have already begun! Do you not see it? I will make a pathway through the wilderness. I will create rivers in the dry wasteland.

S – Stop making excuses.

If I want a fresh start in life, I have to stop making excuses for my failures. I’ve got to stop blaming other people. I’ve got to stop seeing myself as the victim of my circumstances.

Other people can hurt us. But the only person that can ruin my life is me. Nobody can ruin my life without my permission. The Bible says that the starting point is to just be honest and accept responsibility for my part in the problem.

Proverbs 28:13 “One who refuses to admit his mistakes can never be successful. But if he confesses and forsakes them he gets another chance.”

If at first you don’t succeed, welcome to the human race. If at first you don’t succeed, you’re normal. Very few people make it on the first try. Oftentimes, we give up just when success is around the corner. You’re never a failure until you give up. Sometimes we give up too soon.

T – Take an Inventory of My Life

That means I need to evaluate all my experiences. I need to look at what I have left after the failure and learn from those experiences.

Failure can be your friend or your foe depending on the way you react to it. You can choose to learn from it or choose to repeat it.

A – Act in faith

This means launching out into new territory. The Bible says that the key to changing anything is faith.

Jesus says this in Matthew 9. “According to your faith it will be done to you.” That is a very simple statement but it’s very powerful. “According to your faith it will be done to you.” That means we tend to get out of life what we expect. “According to your faith it will be done to you.” It’s a simple investment principle. We get a 100% return on what we invest.

What am I expecting in life? Are things going to be better or worse? Are they going to be the same? If I act in faith then I will do something positive to ensure that I don’t repeat the same mistakes over.

R – Refocus

I need to refocus my thoughts if I want to change my life. If I want to get going again, if I want a fresh start, I need to rethink the way that I think. I need to change my mind about a number of issues.

Proverbs 4:23 "Be careful how you think. Your life is shaped by your thoughts."

The way you think, determines the way you feel. And the way you feel determines the way you act. If you want to change your actions, just change the way you think and it will inevitably change the way you act

Romans 12:2 “Be transformed by the renewing of your mind.”

How do you do that?

· First, confession. You say, "I’ve confessed to God but I still feel guilty. How do I get rid of a painful memory?" Not by resisting it but by replacing it. Psalm 1 “Happy are those who are always meditating on God’s word. They’re like trees along a river that do not dry up. They succeed in everything they do. ”

As we fill our mind with God’s word, it begins to change our mind. We stop seeing ourselves as other people see us or as we have seen ourselves and we begin to see ourselves as God does. That’s where the change takes place. That’s the power to start over.

T – Trust

Trust God to help us succeed. Depend on Him. We don’t need depend on ourselves. We’ve already proven that we can’t do it on our own. That’s why we’ve failed. If we keep doing the same thing then we will keep getting the same result. We can’t change who we are, only God can do that. Success in the Christian life is not trying harder, but living smarter. Giving God control of my life.

Zechariah 4:6 “You will not succeed by your own strength or power but by My Spirit, says the Lord.”

“When someone becomes a Christian, They become a brand new person inside. He is not the same anymore. A new life has begun!” God specializes in new beginnings. Jesus Christ has the power to do that. It’s called being born again, the chance to start over. We can have fresh start with a new life as we begin this New Year. God says, “I don’t want you to turn over a new leaf. I’m going to give you a whole new life.”

Conclusion: Will you have a fresh start in life? Will you have a new beginning? It’s your choice. How can I have a fresh start? I can have a fresh start by:

- Stop making excuses
- Take an inventory of my life
- Act in faith
- Refocus my thoughts
- Trust God

February 24, 2022 | ATLANTA

The General Board of Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church is deeply troubled by the conflict between Russia and Ukraine and the ominous implications it has for escalating tensions between Russia and Western nations. We join many Christian leaders and organizations worldwide in deploring the Russian invasion of Ukraine on February 24, and we ardently pray for a redirection of military action toward diplomatic measures to resolve grievances. United Methodists are people of peace.

The United Methodist Church has mission-founded congregations in both Ukraine and Russia, some from the pre-Soviet period and others dating from post-Soviet years. Both countries are geographically within the Eurasia Episcopal Area and relate to the United Methodist central conferences of Europe. Bishop Eduard Khegay, the resident episcopal leader in Eurasia, is based in Moscow.

We join with Bishop Christian Alsted of the Nordic and Baltic Episcopal Area and chair of our denomination's Connectional Table in the prayer that conflict involving political matters will not break the unity between United Methodists in Ukraine and Russia.

Ties broken by Communism between Methodist communities in the Soviet bloc and the United Methodist denomination were reestablished in the 1990s through a number of mission initiatives related to Global Ministries. That work led to the inclusion of the whole of Eurasia into the organic structure of the church through the creation of the Eurasia Episcopal Area.

While Global Ministries has no administrative role in the affairs of annual conferences, districts or congregations in Russia or Ukraine, we are partners in mission with church units and projects in those countries. We have placed numerous missionaries and young adult Global Mission Fellows in the region over the years and accept applications for missionary and mission volunteer service from both countries. We currently have no mission personnel in Ukraine.

The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), the humanitarian relief arm of Global Ministries, is in communication with partners in the region and actively exploring the coordination of humanitarian response in Ukraine. Support UMCOR's international disaster response efforts by making a gift to **Advance #982450**.

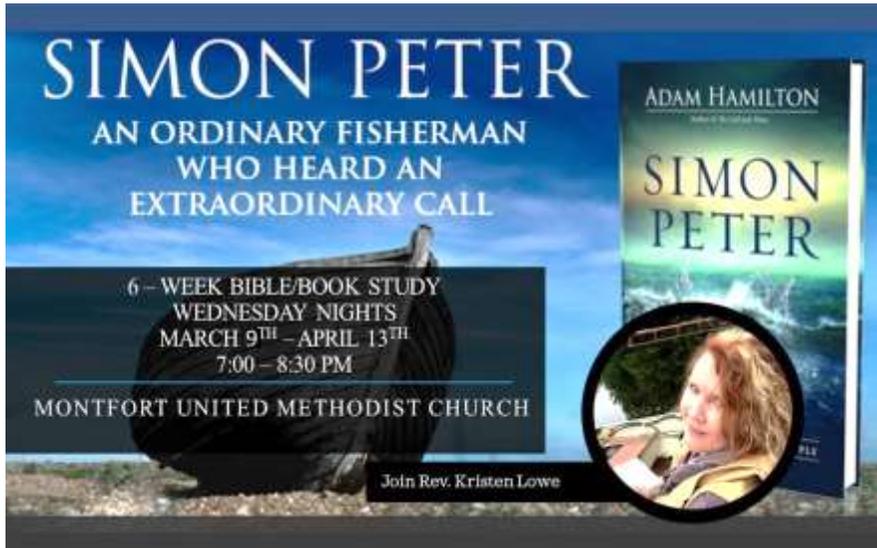
We pray for the peace and security of United Methodists in Ukraine and Russia and for all of their neighbors, and that tranquility will prevail over their lives and countries.

Rita Riley's Aunt, Phyllis Wagner turned 98 on March 16th! If anyone would want to send a card, her address is:

Phyllis Wagner
Sunnyside Nursing Home
5201 Bahia Vista Street
Sarasota, FL 34232

Souled Out Youth Group

Youth are invited to participate in the Simon Peter book/Bible study. But Youth Group will NOT meet during Lent. Our lessons will continue after Easter.



Looking Ahead:
Holy Week
Schedule:

April 15

Good Friday Worship

7:00 pm at Cobb UMC



Easter Sunday - April 17th

8:00 am Worship at Livingston UMC

9:30 am Worship at Cobb UMC

11:00 am Worship at Montfort UMC

There will be a special collection taken in Cobb on March 20th for this year's **Ingathering** mission to provide Home Care Kits and Personal Dignity Kits. A Home Care Kit (\$20 value) includes household cleaners, dish soap, laundry detergent, a scrub brush, and a round bucket with lid. A Personal Dignity Kit (\$15 value) includes a hand towel and washcloth, toothpaste and toothbrush, bar soap, shampoo, razor, deodorant, and a 1-gallon resealable plastic bag. Please make checks out to Cobb UMC with Ingathering in the memo. Any contribution (large or small) will be greatly appreciated!

Hymn Sing

On **Sunday, May 29th** we will have a SINGLE Hymn Sing Worship. This will be at the Montfort church at 9:30 am. This will be the **ONLY** worship of the day! Please join us!

Cobb UMC will also be collecting donations for Ukraine April 3rd & 10th. Please watch for more info in the bulletin.